GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3275
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
NEW COAL DEPOSITS IN NEW COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a): the details of coal deposits detected in new coal mines spotted by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in West Bengal in the recent past; and

(b): the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to extract the same either through private parties or Government agencies?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COAL & MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): Geological Survey of India(GSI) has reported that duringthe last few years two new potential coal bearing areas in West Bengal has been identified.

(i) Domra area, Bardhaman District: The area marks the easternmost extension of Raniganj Coalfield. Total reserves of 917.77 million tonne has been established.

(ii) Birbhum Coalfield, Birbhum Distt.:-Reserve of 3795.45 million tonne has already been established in this coalfield. In the south-central part of the coalfield in Pachami area, a super thick seam zone with maximum recorded thickness of 156 m having 118 m of clean coal has been recorded. Exploratory activities in other areas of this coalfield for providing additional resource are being continued.

In both the areas coal occurs at depth, below 150- 300 m cover of hard basaltic rocks and other sediments. Details of the reserve are given as under:-

	Depth			Total
	0-300 m	300-600 m	600-1200 m	0-1200 m
Reserve in Domra area	-	345.04 Million Tonnes	572.73 Million	917.77 Million
Reserve in Birbhum Coalfield	378.02 Million Tonnes	2595.89 Million Tonnes	821.54 Million Tonnes	3795.45 Million Tonnes

In addition, exploration in recent years in Trans- Damodar area, southeastern fringe area of Raniganj Coalfield has established the occurrence of coal at shallow depth. In this area, so far, 170 million tonne reserve has been established, more than 70% of which lie within 300 m depth from surface. Exploratory activities to establish full potentiality of the area are in progress.

(b): Two blocks viz. Diwanganj and Deocha-Pachami having geological reserves of 38 million tonnes and 2025 million tonnes in Birbhum coalfield , have been identified for captive mining. So far these blocks have not been requisitioned by private parties. CIL has not retained any block in Birbhum coalfield for mining in future.